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WITNESS TESTIMONY

April 4, 2008

TO: Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
House Committee on Economic Development & Business Concerns

FROM: Gladys C. Baisa *GB*
Council Member

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF APRIL 4, 2008; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HR 290, HD1,
RELATING TO GRAY WATER RECYCLING PROGRAMS FOR RESIDENTIAL
IRRIGATION PURPOSES**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to urge the counties to adopt and implement gray water recycling programs for residential irrigation purposes as provided under the uniform plumbing code standards.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I support this measure for the following reasons:

1. The use of gray water for landscape irrigation promotes water conservation by lessening the need to use potable water.
2. I am working on legislation to amend the County of Maui's Plumbing Code to authorize the appropriate use of gray water. Adoption of this measure would be a helpful boost to that effort.
3. Legislation encouraging the use of gray water has been proven economically and environmentally advantageous in other jurisdictions, and I am excited about the potential benefits of similar legislation in Hawaii.

For the foregoing reasons, I support this measure.

paf:dmr:07-245e